CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will **replace all prior versions** and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing configuration information for a bridged virtual local area network (VLAN) within a communication network, comprising the steps of:

[[a.]]   presenting a graphical user interface (GUI) to an operator;

[[b.]]   receiving from the operator an identification of a node and of a physical port through the GUI;

[[c.]]   receiving VLAN configuration information from the operator through the GUI, wherein the VLAN configuration information comprises a requested VLAN identifier (ID), a first set of at least -and at least one virtual port to be associated with a member set of the VLAN, and a second set of zero or more virtual ports to be associated with a forbidden set of the VLAN;

[[d.]] validating the VLAN configuration information, the step of validating comprising:

ensuring that the first set and the second set have no virtual ports in common, and

ensuring that configuring a VLAN associated with the requested VLAN ID would not violate a maximum limit of VLANS on the physical port;

[[e.]] generating locally a validated VLAN configuration according to the VLAN configuration information, wherein the validated VLAN configuration comprises the first set of at least one virtual port and the second set of zero or more virtual ports a first set of at least one virtual port to be associated with the VLAN and a second set of zero or more virtual ports which cannot be assigned to the VLAN; and

[[f.]] transmitting the validated VLAN configuration to the node.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving VLAN configuration information comprises receiving, from the operator through the GUI, an identification of at least one virtual port currently belonging to a member set of the VLAN, said the set of at least one virtual port being is selected by the operator from a list of virtual ports currently in an available set. the member set.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the step of receiving VLAN configuration information further comprises the steps of:

a. receiving, from the operator through the GUI, an identification of zero or more virtual ports currently belonging to a forbidden set of the VLAN; and

[[b.]] receiving, from the operator through the GUI, an identification of zero or more virtual ports ~~currently belonging to~~ to be associated with an untagged set of the VLAN~~; and~~

~~wherein the step of~~ validating ~~the VLAN configuration information comprises:~~

~~c. ensuring that the member set and the forbidden set have no virtual ports in common.~~

4-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 comprising the further step of storing the validated configuration information at a network management system.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the node is an Asynchronous Transfer Mode node.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the bridged VLAN is in conformance with the 802.1q VLAN standard.

9. (Currently Amended) A system including at least one device capable of presenting a graphical user interface (GUI) to an operator, the at least one device

comprising a processor for providing configuration information for a bridged virtual local area network (VLAN) within a communication network, comprising:

[[a.]] instructions for presenting said graphical user interface (GUI) to the operator;

[[b.]] instructions for receiving an identification of a node and of a physical port through the GUI;

[[c.]] instructions for receiving VLAN configuration information from the operator through the GUI, wherein the VLAN configuration information comprises a requested VLAN identifier (ID), a first set of at least ~and at least~ one virtual port to be associated with a member set of the VLAN, and a second set of zero or more virtual ports to be associated with a forbidden set of the VLAN;

[[d.]] instructions for validating the VLAN configuration information, the instructions for validating comprising instructions for ensuring that the first set and the second set have no virtual ports in common;

[[e.]] instructions for generating locally a validated VLAN configuration according to the VLAN configuration information, wherein the validated VLAN configuration comprises the first set of at least one virtual port and the second set of zero or more virtual ports a first set of at least one virtual port to be associated with the VLAN and a second set of zero or more virtual ports which cannot be assigned to the VLAN; and

[[f.]]   instructions for transmitting the validated VLAN configuration to the node.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein ~~the instructions for receiving VLAN configuration information comprise instructions for receiving, from the operator through the GUI, an identification of at least one virtual port currently belonging to a member set of the VLAN, said~~ the set of at least one virtual port ~~being~~ is selected by the operator from a list of virtual ports currently in an available set. ~~the member set.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the instructions for receiving VLAN configuration information further comprise:

   ~~a. instructions for receiving, from the operator through the GUI, an identification of zero or more virtual ports currently belonging to a forbidden set of the VLAN; and~~

   [[b.]] instructions for receiving, from the operator through the GUI, an identification of zero or more virtual ports ~~currently belonging to~~ to be associated with an untagged set of the VLAN~~; and~~

~~wherein the instructions for validating the VLAN configuration information comprise:~~

~~c.   instructions for ensuring that the member set and the forbidden set have no virtual ports in common.~~

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 further comprising instructions for storing the validated configuration information at a network management system.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the node is an Asynchronous Transfer Mode node.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the bridged VLAN is in conformance with the 802.1q VLAN standard.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 comprising the further steps of querying the node for the list of VLAN configurations which are currently configured on the node and storing the list.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 further comprising instructions for querying the node for the list of VLAN configurations which are currently configured on the node and storing the list.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of validating the VLAN configuration information comprises, if the VLAN is a new VLAN, validating the requested VLAN ID by comparing the requested VLAN ID with VLAN IDs in a list of VLAN configurations for VLANs that are configured on the node.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the instructions for validating the VLAN configuration information further comprises instructions for, if the VLAN is a new VLAN, validating the requested VLAN ID by comparing the requested VLAN ID with VLAN IDs in a list of VLAN configurations for VLANs that are configured on the node.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of generating a validated VLAN configuration comprises the steps of:

[[a.]] removing at least one port identified by the operator through the GUI from a list to which the at least one port currently belongs; and

[[b.]] adding the at least one port to a list identified by the operator through the GUI.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the instructions for generating a validated VLAN configuration comprise instructions for:
[[a.]] removing at least one port identified by the operator through the GUI from a list to which the at least one port currently belongs; and
[[b.]] adding the at least one port to a list identified by the operator through the GUI.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first set is a member set of the VLAN and the second set is a forbidden set of the VLAN.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the first set is a member set of the VLAN and the second set is a forbidden set of the VLAN.